

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INRE-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02

OC-06 CCO-00 PC-01 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USSS-00 MCT-01 ARA-06 ORM-02 /121 W

-----241341Z 020550 /46

O P 241115Z MAY 77 ZFF-1

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3728

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ-4/7 PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 4864

PASS PEACE CORPS

USIA FOR IAA, IOP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: SITREP 64 (MAY 24, 1977)

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1. FOLLOWING IS THE 64TH MISSION WIDE SURVEY INCLUDING REPORTS
FROM LUBUMBASHI.

MILITARY SITUATION AS OF 231700Z MAY 77.

NOTE: ALL GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCES ARE TAKEN FROM JOINT OPERATIONS
GRAPHIC SERIES 1501 MAPS.

2. HOSTILE FORCES:

A. DDN REPORTS THAT ON 19 MAY AN ESTIMATED HOSTILE FORCE BATTALION ATTACKED KATAPAKISHI (0816S/2248E). THE FIREFIGHT LASTED FROM 0410Z TO 1000Z. RESULTS: ENEMY: 14 KIA PER BODY COUNT; FRIENDLY: 13 KIA, 17 WIA.

B. HOSTILE FORCES HAVE TAKEN THE VILLAGE OF TSHIBABA (APPROX 0750S/2223E)--OFF OF JOG MAP COVERAGE) NORTH OF KAPANGA ON 22 MAY.

C. DDN HAS NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM LOCAL PRESS REPORTS WHICH CREDIT A KATANGAN PRISONER WITH STATING THAT ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO HAS CLOSED HIS BORDER TO KATANGAN FORCES TRYING TO RETURN. ACCORDING TO BELGIAN AND FRENCH STAFF OFFICERS, EVEN HOSTILE FORCES RADIO MESSAGES HAVE NOT GIVEN SUPPORT TO SUCH A TURN OF EVENTS. THESE SAME EUROPEAN STAFF OFFICERS HAVE ASKED TO BE ALLOWED TO INTERROGATE RECENT POW'S, BUT FAZ HAS NOT YET GIVEN PERMISSION.

D. APPARENTLY HOSTILE FORCES DESTROYED AN IMPORTANT ROAD BRIDGE EAST OF SANDOA AT TSHINBALANGA (0943S/2305E) TO IMPEDE FAZ ADVANCE.

E. BOTH THE ROAD AND RAIL BRIDGES AT KILOLO ARE REPORTED TO BE DAMAGED AND APPARENTLY ARE UNUSABLE.

3. ZAIRIAN FORCES:

A. DILOLO (1028S/2228E) WAS OFFICIALLY RETAKEN AS OF 210300Z MAY 77.

B. IN THE SANDOA SUB-SECTOR, THE KABANGU BATTALION APPARENTLY CHOSE TO FOLLOW A NORTHERN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE WESTWARD DUE TO THE POOR CONDITION OF THE MAIN ROAD. AT SOME POINT ON THIS ROUTE, 30 KMS EAST OF SANDOA, COL DIKUTA AND THREE OTHERS WERE WOUNDED BY A SINGLE MORTAR ROUND.

C. IN THE KAPANGA SUB-SECTOR, A FAZ REINFORCED PLATOON HAS BEEN FORCED OUT OF TSHIBABA (SEE PARA 2B ABOVE).

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D. FAZ ELEMENTS MOVING EAST FROM KISENGE AND WEST FROM LUASHI HAVE LINKED UP.

E. DDN SAYS REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THAT THE CIVILIAN POPULATION HAS BEGUN TO RETURN TO VILLAGES IN THE KISENGE-DILOLO AREA.

F. PER DAO SOURCES, COL MAMINA AND MAJ OHANO (SITREP 61 PARA 3E) WERE RECAPTURED ON 17 MAY AT KAMINA BASE (NOFORN). DDN SOURCES REPORT THAT COL MAMINA WAS COURT-MARTIALLED AND SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

4. MOROCCAN FORCES: MG BABIA AND A SMALL NUMBER OF STAFF OFFICERS WILL VISIT KOLWEZI ON 24 MAY. AMONG OTHER TOPICS HE WILL DISCUSS WITH BG SINGA (AND POSSIBLY PRESIDENT MOBUTU) WILL BE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER MOROCCAN FORCES WILL NOW BE DIVERTED TO THE OPERATIONS AGAINST SANDOA AND KAPANGA AS HOSTILE ACTIVITIES CONTINUE IN THESE AREAS. IN ANY CASE, ACCORDING TO A BELGIAN STAFF OFFICER AT DDN, THE MOROCCANS WILL LEAVE BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE OAU SUMMIT IN LIBREVILLE ON 23 JUN 77.

5. AIR

A. TACAIR FLEW SORTIES AGAINST SUSPECTED HOSTILE POSITIONS IN THE SANDOA SUB-SECTOR ON 23 MAY. TYPE OF AIRCRAFT, NUMBER OF SORTIES AND BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT NOT AVAILABLE AT DDN.

B. FAZA C-130'S ARE BEING USED TO FERRY JP-1 TO SHABA, EVEN THOUGH RAIL TANK CARS WITH JP-1 CONTINUE TO ARRIVE FROM ZAMBIA. REPORTEDLY THE PUMPS NEEDED TO DISCHARGE THE RAIL TANK CARS ARE ALL IN USE AT AIRFIELDS TO PUMP OUT THE BARRELS OF FUEL DELIVERED BY C-130'S. THIS SITUATION IS CITED BY BELGIAN STAFF OFFICERS AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF LOGISTIC MANAGEMENT DIFFICULTIES OF FAZ.

C. NEW FAZA C-130 SCHEDULED TO BE DELIVERED FROM US ON 26 MAY 77.

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INRE-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-06 ORM-02 /121 W

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O P 241115Z MAY 77 ZFF-1

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3729

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 4864

PASS PEACE CORPS

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6. DOMESTIC PRESS: PRESS COVERAGE ON SHABA IN LAST SEVERAL DAYS DEPICTS END OF HOSTILITIES WITH FALL OF KASAJI, DJONGO AND DILOLO. ATTACKS CONTINUE AGAINST ROLE OF CUBANS AND SOVIETS IN SHABAN AFFAIRS, WHILE MEDIA EDITORIALS CONCENTRATE ON EXTOLLING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF THE PRESIDENT. "ELIMA" AND "SALONGO" EDITIONS OF MAY 23 AND 24 NOTE SANDOA AND KAPANGA ARE BEING HARRASSED BY ZAIRIAN AIR FORCE BUT GIVE NO DETAILS. ALSO PRESS REPORTS RETURN OF "REFUGEES" TO TOWN AND VILLAGES RECENTLY LIBERATED. LOCAL TELEVISION BROADCAST INTERVIEW WITH RECENTLY CAPTURED POW. PRESS GAVE EXPANSIVE COVERAGE TO VISIT OF MOROCCAN FOMIN WHO CALLED ON MOBUTU IN KILWEZI AND ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT ON TOUR OF THE TOWN OF DILOLO. ALSO REPORTED WERE THE SEPARATE MEETINGS BY THE LIBERIAN AND CONGOLESE FOMINS IN KILWEZI WITH MOBUTU.

7. DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY

A. MOBUTU MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER M. THEOPHILE OBENGA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) ON MAY 18 AT KOLWEZI. ACCORDING TO PRESS, OBENGA BROUGHT MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DENIS YHOMBI OPANGO THANKING MOBUTU FOR ZAIRE'S SUPPORTIVE ACTIONS AT THE TIME OF NGOUBI'S ASSASSINATION. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT LETTER TO MOBUTU CONTAINED NETO MESSAGE EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO MEET UNDER CONGOLESE AUSPICES.

B. MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER M. MOULAY AHMED LARAKI AND GENERAL MOULAY HAFID ALAOUI, MINISTER OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, THE CHANCELLERY AND PROTOCOL, ARRIVED IN KINSHASA ON MAY 19 AND FLEW ON TO KOLWEZI, FOR A MAY 20 MEETING WITH MOBUTU. MEETING ALSO INCLUDED COLONEL LOUBARIS OF THE MOROCCAN ARMY CONTINGENT. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN DILOLO ON MAY 21, FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI ANNOUNCED THAT THE CITY'S FALL MARKED THE END OF THE MISSION OF THE ROYAL MOROCCAN ARMED FORCES CONTINGENT IN SHABA. ALTHOUGH NO DATE WAS GIVEN FOR THEIR DEPARTURE FROM ZAIRE, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE COMPLETION OF MINOR MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS. AT SAME PRESS CONFERENCE, MOBUTU ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION OF GOING TO RABAT EARLY JUNE. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE JUNE OAU SUMMIT IN GABON, WHERE HE FELT THAT PROBLEM OF MERCENARIES AND NON-AFRICAN FORCES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED.

C. ON MAY 19, MOBUTU MET IN KOLWEZI WITH MAITRE KAMANDA WA KAMANDA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU. THEIR FORTY-FIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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MINUTE MEETING FOCUSED ON ISSUES OF GENERAL AFRICAN INTEREST AS WELL AS THE SITUATION IN SHABA.

D. THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MPR WAS ALSO MARKED BY MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS TO MOBUTU FROM PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT AND THE EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT, FROM PRESIDENT JUVENAL HABYARIMANA OF RWANDA, PRESIDENT FELIX MALLOUM OF CHAD AND PRESIDENT GNASSINBE EYADEME OF TOGO.

E. LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER M. CECIL DENIS MET WITH MOBUTU IN KILWEZI ON MAY 22. IN A TELEVISED STATEMENT HE SAID THAT HE HAD BROUGHT A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO MOBUTU AND OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ZAIRE FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT.

F. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA IN A VERY BUSY DAY ON MAY 23 MET WITH AMBASSADORS OF MOROCCO, GABON, NIGERIA AND THE IVORY COAST, AS WELL AS THE CHARGE FROM SENEGAL. THE MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED MOBUTU'S UPCOMING VISIT TO RABAT, WHILE THE OTHER MEETINGS INCLUDED MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE RECENT VICTORY IN SHABA AND OF SOLIDARITY.

8. DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION:

A. KINSHASA: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MAY 18 MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THREE FULL DAYS OF PUBLIC CEREMONIES, SPORTING EVENTS AND SPEECHES MARKING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOUVEMENT POPULAIRE DE LA REVOLUTION ON MAY 20. CONTRARY TO REPORTS THAT AZAP JOURNALIST KAYEMBE HAD BEEN EXECUTED BY GOZ AFTER HIS ARREST (SITREP 35) KAYEMBE IS ALIVE AND WELL, HAVING BEEN IN CONTACT WITH USIS OFFICER LAST WEEK. (SEE KINSHASA 4845.)

9. AMERICAN CITIZEN SITUATION: THERE STILL HAS BEEN NO CONTACT WITH AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN SANDOA OR KAPANGA AREAS. HOWEVER, BELGIAN PRIEST IN KINSHASA HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT 5 BELGIAN CATHOLIC NUNS AND 5 BELGIAN PRIESTS FROM KAPANGA AREA ARRIVED BRUSSELS 21 MAY ALONG WITH 6 OTHER BELGIAN MISSIONARIES FROM THE SANDOA AREA. AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI RECEIVED SIMILAR INFORMATION. COMMENT: REQUEST AMEMB BRUSSELS TO FOLLOW UP IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN STATUS OF AMERICAN MISSIONARIES.

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Message Attributes

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